

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 3-21, which are objected to, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-14, and 19-26 remain pending in the application. Claims 15-18 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, and claims 22-26 have been added for consideration.

Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by CH Patent Document 1 (2191378, hereinafter "CH'378"), and claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over CH'378, and claim 2 is further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over CH'378 in view of CH Patent Document 2 (2532406, hereinafter "CH'406"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define a structural feature of an embodiment and to more clearly distinguish over the applied prior art references to further recite, inter alia, that the air supply duct and the air discharge duct are located outside the indoor unit. No new matter is believed to be introduced by the

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present amendment. In this regard, the Examiner's attention is directed to, inter alia, Fig. 1 of Applicants' application.

It is a feature of an embodiment to provide an air conditioner whose ducts and indoor unit are combined easily and into a compact unit.

To achieve the above-noted feature, an air conditioning system the present embodiment, as recited in amended claim 1, includes, inter alia, an outdoor unit having a compressor and an outdoor heat exchanger, an indoor unit installed in a ceiling, having an indoor heat exchanger with a space therein in communication with a room, a fan in the space to draw and discharge air through the indoor heat exchanger, and a ventilation guide duct on an underside of the indoor heat exchanger having a partition wall that separates external air supplied from an outside of the room, and room air, to guide the external air to the room through the fan, and the room air to the outside of the room, and an air supply duct and an air discharge duct each having one end connected to the ventilation guide duct that guides the external air to the room, and the room air to the outside of the room, respectively. Further, the air supply duct and the air discharge duct are located outside the indoor unit.

Applicants respectfully submit that the references relied upon in the rejections under 35U.S.C. 102(b) and 103(a), considered singly or in any proper combination, do not disclose such a combination of features.

The CH'378 reference refers to and is concerned specifically with a technical solution to miniaturize an air conditioner to be built into a ceiling or a window, with all

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the elements provided in one case. In particular, CH'378 discloses an air conditioner built into a ceiling or a window, which includes two fans 1 and 13, two heat exchangers 2 and 12, a preheat exchanger 7, a compressor 14, a capillary tube 16, and a plurality of passages. Thus, in the CH'378 reference, all the elements constituting an indoor unit and an outdoor unit are arranged in one case which is installed in a ceiling, a window or a wall.

In contrast, however, in the presently claimed embodiment an outdoor unit is provided separately from the indoor unit, and the indoor unit is installed in a ceiling. Furthermore, in the presently claimed embodiment, the air supply duct and the air discharge duct are located outside the indoor unit. None of these features of the presently claimed embodiment are disclosed in CH'378. Thus, the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) is improper for at least these reasons.

Moreover, the secondary CH'406 reference also does not disclose or suggest the above-noted combination of features.

Thus, CH'378 does not anticipate the presently claimed embodiment or render the presently claimed embodiment unpatentable, and CH'406 does not overcome the deficiencies of CH'378. Thus, even assuming, arguendo, that the teachings of CH'378 and CH'406 can be properly combined, the asserted combination of CH'378 and CH'406 would not result in the embodiment as recited in claim 2.

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Claims 22-26 have been newly added for consideration. No new matter is introduced by this claim addition. In this regard, the Examiner's attention is directed to canceled claims 15-18 of Applicants' application.

Independent claim 1 is now in condition for allowance in view of the amendments and the above-noted remarks, and claims 2-14, and 19-26 dependent thereon are also submitted to be in condition for allowance in view of their dependence from the allowable base claim and also at least based upon their recitations of additional features of the present invention. It is respectfully requested, therefore, that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn and that an early indication of the allowance thereof be given.

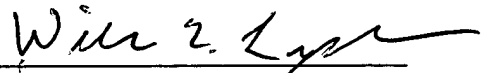
Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based on prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to be attached thereto.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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